Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 31st, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Stephen P. Clark Government Center

111 NW 1st Street, Room 18-3

Miami, FL 33128

Members Present: Magali Abad, Lupe Bruneman, Betty Hermida, Rosa Kasse, Brenda Lampon, Armando Riera, Mario Tapia

Members Absent: Johnnie Mae Kerr, Barby Morales, Dionne Polite, Nercy Radcliffe

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I. Welcome

The meeting began at 10:34 a.m. The board has a new member, Armando Riera, who introduced himself.

II. Approval of Agenda

Magali moved to approve the agenda for October. Lupe seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the agenda was approved.

III. Approval of Minutes

Rosa asked to clarify in the minutes that Mario requested a meeting with the Alliance. Mario asked that his request for a five year follow up on the Alliance be added. Lupe moved to approve the minutes with the requested changes. Betty seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the minutes were approved.

IV. Community Outreach Committee Report

Resource Fair: Katherine informed the board of the potential location and sponsorship information for the resource fair. Everyone was okay with the changes made to the sponsorship letter. Rosa asked the board to send Katherine the contact information for organizations they think would be interested.

Farmshare Event: Katherine then went over the discussion the committee had about the Farmshare event the board was interested in. Logistically, the best option would be for board members to volunteer as a group to prepack the boxes that will be distributed. Magali had concerns about board attendance and requested that board members commit to participating before Katherine signs the board up. Lupe, Magali, Betty, and Armando committed to participating and detailed their availability. Katherine will sign the board up.

Logistics: The committee elected Betty as their chairperson. The committee also chose the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. as their designated meeting date. The committee asked for the board to discuss Facebook streaming, so it was put on today's agenda.

September Meeting: The committee had some concerns about the September Meeting. Specifically, the committee wants to clarify what each member should say when introducing themselves. While discussing this item at today's meeting, the board agreed that introductions should be limited to the board member's name and district.

V. Work Group Updates

Elder and Vulnerable Adult Workgroup: The meeting for October was cancelled.

Elder Issues Committee: The majority of the meeting was taken up by a presentation.

VI. Old Business

AARP: The AARP Tallahassee discussion will be moved to November since Dionne is absent.

BCC Updates: The committee meeting that had the board's item reducing the board's age limit and adding at large members was cancelled due to Hurricane Milton. Katherine will let the board know when the date is set. The report that was requested by the board has not been set on the BCC agenda yet. Katherine will let the board know when it is.

Voting Items for September: The February meeting date needs to be changed because Katherine will be in Tampa taking the Bar exam. February 20th was suggested as the new date. Magali motioned to hold the meeting on February 20th, Lupe seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote. The February meeting will be February 20th. The board voted on the format of the committee meeting. Magali motioned to have presentations at community forums. Armando seconded the motion and the motion passed by voice vote. Each community meeting will have a short presentation for the seniors. The board also voted on merging the resource guide and community outreach committees, since the resource guide is part of community outreach. Betty motioned to merge the committees. Magali seconded the motion. The voice vote passed and the committees are merged.

Farmshare Event: Discussed during committee meeting review.

VII. New Business

Dehostos Health Fair: Katherine informed the board of the Dehostos senior resource fair and asked if they were interested in participating. Lupe moved to participate in the resource fair. Magali seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the board will participate in the resource fair. Katherine will send the board the flyer.

Streaming: After a short discussion, Magali motioned to stop streaming on Facebook. Betty seconded the motion. The voice vote passed, and the board will stop streaming meetings on Facebook.

September Meeting Review: Katherine reviewed the feedback we received at the September meeting. The biggest issues the board heard about were transportation, meal programs, and housing. The recent redistribution of public transportation has created issues for seniors and made certain places inaccessible. Betty has asked for a meeting with City of Miami commissioners to discuss transportation. Betty chimed in to say that transportation in her district has become a huge problem. There's no public transportation access in a very dense affordable housing area. The main issue now Is that the route 6 bus which ran on 29th street is now gone. It would be helpful for the County to revisit the area. Brenda recommended sharing metro connect information and asking for a presentation from them so we can learn more. Rosa mentioned that the handicap seats in buses are not being used for elderly and disabled. At the committee meeting, the committee suggested speaking with the BCC transportation committee. Katherine can also request a citizen's presentation for the board to talk about the effects of the redistribution or we can send a letter to the board about the problems we've heard about. Betty motioned to do the citizen's presentation at a future BCC meeting. Armando seconded the motion. The voice vote passed and the board will ask for a citizen's presentation at a future transportation committee meeting. There are also problems with STS wait times and choice of route. Home insurance and maintenance together is unaffordable. The seniors also had questions about meal delivery programs. They don't think there's a lot of education on the application process, availability, logistics, and eligibility of seniors for the various meal delivery programs. Mario asked them what the best way to receive information was and they agreed it was through television. The language they would prefer (in West Miami) is Spanish.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is at Senior Planet in Wynwood. We will have the forum in the main area and the rest of our meeting will be in a smaller room so as not to disturb the daily activity of the seniors.

General Discussion: Mario discussed the Alliance on Aging. He would like to have more accountability for them because he doesn't believe they are being as effective as they could be. Lupe concurred, stating that she would like to continue focusing on the Alliance and bringing their concerns to the BCC because they provide services within the County. Lupe proposed that we include the Alliance as a permanent discussion item on the agenda that we follow up at every other meeting. Rosa believes that Mario's concerns are valid since they provide services within the County. Magali agrees but also pointed out that we are an advisory board and should be directing our concerns to the BCC and Dade delegation. Brenda pointed out that each of the board members are representatives of their commissioners and should understand what the views of the commissioner they are representing are. As representatives of someone else, board members should be cautious as to what they're saying because your commissioner may not feel or speak the same way. Brenda agrees that we should have discussions about areas of concerns, but the board is not a compliance board. The Alliance is a state agency, and the board does not have oversight of them. We can share our concerns and ask that commissioners follow up. The board should take the actions the board can take, to the extent that the board can, and then move on. The board should be efficient, effective, and productive. After Brenda finished speaking Lupe motioned to keep the Alliance as an ongoing agenda item for every other meeting. Betty seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the Alliance will be discussed every other meeting. Rosa asked for a follow up meeting after the citizen's presentation with Commissioner Higgins. The meeting lost quorum by the time this was suggested so the board will vote on it in November. Mario asked for someone to come speak about measures taken to prevent housing association abuse.

VIII. Announcements

Elections are next month. Please think about whether you'd like to be on the executive board or if there's someone you think should be on the board.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting ended at noon.